

## A FOOD SOURCE FOR *NECROBIA VIOLACEA* (COLEOPTERA: CLERIDAE)<sup>1</sup>

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Within the *Necrobia* genus (Coleoptera: Cleridae) *N. ruficollis* and *N. rufipes* have been lavished with attention while *N. violacea* has been largely ignored. Most of the information on *N. violacea* seems to be inferred from knowledge of its relatives. Following is a report on a small but interesting observation made while maintaining a colony of *N. violacea* in the lab.

*Necrobia violacea* and *Sarcophaga* flies and Dermestidae of undetermined species were kept in fly cages at 25-28°C and 68-72% RH, and maintained on sugar, water and meat of dead rats.

*Necrobia violacea* were observed inside the pupal cases of the *Sarcophaga* flies. Evidence indicates that the larvae bored into the living fly puparia to eat the contents and/or pupate. Active and quiescent larvae as well as pupae of *N. violacea* have been found in puparia in which the polar entrance-way was sealed with a white secretion common to *Necrobia* (Scott, 1919). Many adult and larval *N. violacea* were found in unselaed puparia indicating predation on the pupal stage of the flies by both adults and larvae, an issue previously in dispute for *N. ruficollis* (Scott, 1919; Balduf, 1969). Adults were observed to prey on and immediately devour dermestid larvae. However, maintainance on *N. violacea* on the meat of dead rats alone (and in the absence of both flies and Dermestidae) indicates that the saprophagous food habit of *N. ruficollis* and *N. rufipes* (Balduf, 1969) also is true of *N. violacea*.

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